



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Homeless Youth Count Set for Nov. 17 County Commission Approves \$40,000 for Census Project

The County Commission approved funding on Nov. 15 for the first homeless youth count to be led by the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth on Thursday, Nov. 17 in partnership with local non-profits St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Girls and Boys Town and WestCare, Inc.

More than 150 census volunteers have been recruited and trained by local research firm Strategic Solutions. During the one-hour training sessions, volunteers were assigned to a deployment center where they will report on the evening of the count, be placed on a team of two or three, and given a map of the area they will canvass to identify homeless individuals under 18.

"Homeless youth is a growing problem throughout the country," said County Manager Thom Reilly. "The census not only tells us how many of our kids are living on the streets, but it helps us to bring visibility to the problem in our community and better match services to their specific needs to prevent them from becoming part of the chronic homeless population as adults."

In the second phase of the census project, Strategic Solutions will interview more than 200 homeless youth to gather additional information that will help local officials and providers understand how to best serve this growing population.

Volunteers will gather Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Paradise, Mt. Crest and Desert Breeze Community Centers, and the Hollywood Recreation Center. The deployment centers have been set up to provide volunteers instructions, enumeration sheets and supplies. Census teams will be deployed at 8 p.m. to count homeless youth in the streets. Teams are expected to return from the field by 3 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 18.

Interested citizens may call 835-1279 to participate in the homeless youth census.

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Editor's Note: The largest volunteer turnout will be at the Paradise Community Center located at 4775 McLeod Drive, north of E. Tropicana Ave. Kathleen Boutin, executive director for the Nevada Partnership for Homeless Youth will be onsite for media interviews. Interested media may contact Gina Olivares at 455-3531 or Jason Gray at 889-2840.

News release also available on the Internet at www.accessclarkcounty.com

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